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## **Danville to extend Riverwalk Trail with \$100,000 grant from Duke Energy Foundation**

**Danville, VA** – The City of Danville received a \$100,000 grant to enhance public access to the Dan River and expand outdoor recreation opportunities by extending the Riverwalk Trail. The grant is part of the Water Resources Fund, a \$10 million commitment from Duke Energy.

Danville is one of 15 organizations across North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to collectively receive more than \$1 million in the first grant announcement of 2015. The Water Resources Fund is a multi-year commitment that will leave a legacy of improved water quality, quantity and conservation in the Carolinas and neighboring regions.

“We look forward to the completion of this section of the trail as it is one of the most complex sections,” Bill Sgrinia, director of parks and recreation for the City of Danville, said Friday. “The Riverwalk Trail is getting closer each year to having the main section completed. Within the next couple years, we hope to have one continuous trail from the airport to Ballou Park.”

The grant will go toward the construction of a bridge and boardwalk to span the Sandy River, which is the largest physical barrier to the Riverwalk Trail progress. Upon completion of the Sandy River crossing, only one mile will remain to connect to the Robertson Bridge, which ushers the trail across the Dan River to Ballou Park and West Main Street.

“The Water Resources Fund is a testament to Duke Energy’s long history of investing in the health and vitality of our communities,” said Stick Williams, president of the Duke Energy Foundation. “We look forward to our partnership with the City of Danville and the impact this grant will have in Danville.”

The Duke Energy Foundation and community leaders will gather on April 30 to honor the inaugural Water Resource Fund grant recipients and celebrate their ongoing commitment to communities across the Carolinas.

Investment decisions are carefully reviewed by the Water Resources Fund committee, an independent body that includes five environmental experts and two Duke Energy employees. Selected projects are chosen on several criteria, including whether the project is science-based and research-supported.

Duke Energy anticipates two grant announcements per year over the course of five years. Applications for the next Water Resources Fund grant cycle are due May 15, 2015. An information session will also be available to interested organizations April 1. Please visit [nccommunityfoundation.org](http://nccommunityfoundation.org) for more information on how to apply and register for the session.

### **About City of Danville**

Located in south-central Virginia along the North Carolina border, Danville has been earned the Playful City USA designation for seven consecutive years. In 2014, Danville was one of only two communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia to be recognized.

### **About the Duke Energy Foundation**

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs vital to the health of our communities. Annually, the Foundation funds more than \$25 million in charitable grants, with a focus on education, environment, economic and workforce development and community impact. Duke Energy has long been committed to supporting the communities where its customers and employees live and work, and will continue to build on this legacy.

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